

**DOCUMENT No. 6**  
**Material for the Session/For Circulation**  
**in the Council of Ministers,**  
**Draft: Temporary Transition Rules for Travel**  
**and Permanent Exit from the**  
**GDR, Berlin,**  
**9 November 1989**

Material for the meeting  
 For Circulation in the Council of Ministers  
 Berlin, 9 November 1989  
Members of the Council of Ministers

It is requested that the attached draft resolution  
 Temporary Transition Rules for Travel and Permanent Exit  
 VVS b2-937/89 by the GDR Chairman of the Council of  
 Ministers be approved through circulation today, Thursday,  
 9 November 1989, by 6:00 p.m.

[Harry] Moebis<sup>105</sup>

Material for the meeting  
 Secret  
 Council of Ministers Circular b2-937/89  
 [11/9/89]  
 [40<sup>th</sup>] copy 4 pages  
 V 1204/89

Title of the draft:  
 Temporary—Transition  
 Rules for Travel and  
 Permanent Exit from the GDR

Draft presented by:  
 Chairman of the Council of Ministers

signed: Willi Stoph

Berlin, 9 November 1989

Draft Resolution

The attached resolution on the temporary transition  
 rules for travel and permanent exit from the GDR is approved.

Draft Resolution

To change the situation with regard to the permanent  
 exit of GDR citizens to the FRG via the ČSSR, it has been  
 determined that:

1. The decree from 30 November 1988 about travel abroad  
 of GDR citizens will no longer be applied until the new  
 travel law comes into force.
2. Starting immediately, the following temporary transition  
 regulations for travel abroad and permanent exits from  
 the GDR are in effect:
  - a) Applications by private individuals for travel abroad

- can now be made without the previously existing  
 requirements (of demonstrating a need to travel or proving  
 familial relationships). The travel authorizations will be  
 issued within a short period of time. Grounds for denial  
 will only be applied in particularly exceptional cases.
  - b) The responsible departments of passport and registra-  
 tion control in the People's Police district offices in the  
 GDR are instructed to issue visas for permanent exit  
 without delays and without presentation of the existing  
 requirements for permanent exit. It is still possible to  
 apply for permanent exit in the departments for internal  
 affairs [of the local district or city councils].
  - c) Permanent exits are possible via all GDR border  
 crossings to the FRG and (West) Berlin.
  - d) The temporary practice of issuing (travel) authorizations  
 through GDR consulates and permanent exit with only a  
 GDR personal identity card via third countries ceases.
3. The attached press release explaining the temporary  
 transition regulation will be issued on 10 November.

Responsible: Government spokesman of the GDR  
Council of Ministers

Press release

Berlin (ADN)<sup>106</sup>

As the Press Office of the Ministry of the Interior has  
 announced, the GDR Council of Ministers has decided that  
 the following *temporary transition regulation* for travel  
 abroad and permanent exit from the GDR will be effective  
 until a corresponding law is put into effect by the  
*Volkskammer*:

- 1) Applications by private individuals for travel abroad can  
 now be made without the previously existing requirements  
 (of demonstrating a need to travel or proving familial  
 relationships). The travel authorizations will be issued  
 within a short period of time. Grounds for denial will only  
 be applied in particularly exceptional cases.
- 2) The responsible departments of passport and  
 registration control in the People's Police district  
 offices in the GDR are instructed to issue visas for  
 permanent exit without delays and without presentation  
 of the existing requirements for permanent exit. It is still  
 possible to apply for permanent exit in the departments  
 for internal affairs [of the local district or city councils].
- 3) Permanent exits are possible via all GDR border  
 crossings to the FRG and (West) Berlin.
- 4) This decision revokes the temporary practice of issuing  
 (travel) authorizations through GDR consulates and  
 permanent exit with only a GDR personal identity card  
 via third countries ceases.

[Source: Bundesbeauftragter für die Unterlagen der  
 Staatssicherheit (BstU), Central Archive, MfS Working  
 Group Nieber 553, sheets 15-19. Translated for CWIHP by  
 Howard Sargeant.]